



# The CJA Monitor



Volume 1, Issue 2

*Hampton-Newport News Criminal Justice Agency*

Spring, 2004

## *From the Director*

When I wrote the article for our last newsletter, I was certain that by the time I wrote this one, I would know what the Criminal Justice Agency, and our local community, would be facing in budgetary terms for the next two years. Hopefully, the budget will be settled soon. Based on what came out of the budget committees during regular session, state support for the current operations of local pretrial services and community corrections agencies such as the CJA will be level with FY2003 and FY2004 figures. Local funds supporting these operations are also expected to be level. Funds to support raises for our staff, increased health insurance and retirement costs, and increased operational costs will cut further into the CJA's existing budget.

It is hard not to become discouraged when you see needs that can't easily be fixed. The demands are many and the rewards few for those in public service. The vision and the bigger picture are often hard to see through the day-to-day grind. But, in order to keep moving forward, to keep reaching for the vision, the obstacles must become lessons and

opportunities. This may be a "rose colored glasses" view -- however, without it, how do you get past the problem; how do you enjoy what you do; and how do you keep from just giving up? Time, caseloads, and funding are our major obstacles. However, obstacles such as these can force us to look for efficiencies in what we do. They can also create opportunities to make changes that are effective.

In 2000, the CJA's staff developed a vision *to become a leader among criminal justice agencies by ensuring the highest state of public safety by providing, promoting, and enhancing innovative and professionally administered model programs which break the cycle of crime and victimization.*

This vision, along with our obstacles, keeps the CJA exploring new ideas and ways to implement improved or new services.

In May, several key Agency staff will attend a Criminal Justice Forum on "What Works in Correctional Intervention" sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice

Board. As a follow-up to this event, I will be attending a special training for administrators sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections on effective interventions. Finally, we will pilot a new risk/needs assessment instrument. In the next year we hope to implement a shoplifter's counseling group, enhance our batterer's intervention, anger management, and substance abuse treatment options, and work with Hampton's "Protect Our Kids" project. The major revision of our standard operating procedures will also be completed -- this alone will be quite an accomplishment.

*Tracey L. Jenkins*  
Director



*Above Case Manager Danielle Angel explains supervision conditions to one of her clients.*

## *Pretrial Implements State Risk Assessment*

In January, the CJA's Pretrial Services Divisions implemented a state-mandated risk assessment instrument as part of its pretrial investigation process. The instrument was developed

by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) after several years of data collection and evaluation.

The Virginia Pretrial Risk Assess-

ment Instrument utilizes nine risk factors to classify a defendant in one of five risk levels. The risk levels indicate the risk of failure

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## *Pretrial Implements State Risk Assessment*

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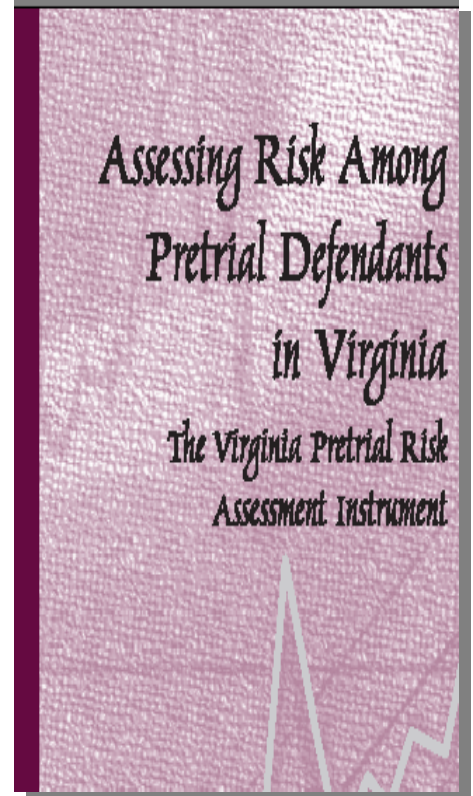
for defendants pending trial. (Risk of failure is defined as failure to appear for court or arrest for a new offense.) The risk factors include measures of criminal history, residence, employment, and substance abuse. In developing the instrument, steps were taken to ensure that the instrument is not biased toward any group based on sex, race, or income.

The CJA began its involvement with this project in 1998 as one of three agencies from across the state collecting the necessary data. Former Director Clyde Cristman, Danielle Angel (now in the Hampton CCD office), and Sorayal Thorne Robinson (now in the Newport News Pretrial office) were instrumental in this phase of the project. Ms. Angel continued with the project and served on the Advisory

Committee that finalized the instrument and established the implementation process.

As part of the implementation, DCJS representatives came to our offices for two days of training. They also presented information to members of the Community Criminal Justice Board, judiciary, local bar associations, and prosecutors. Staff practiced with the instrument for approximately two weeks prior to including it with the pretrial investigation reports developed for the courts. DCJS representatives reviewed how our staff completed each instrument for a month and the feedback was quite positive.

For more information on the Virginia State Risk Assessment visit [www.dcjs.org/corrections/riskassessment](http://www.dcjs.org/corrections/riskassessment)



## *National TASC Comes to Virginia*

TASC is a name that has been around for many years. In the 1970s, TASC began as a criminal justice effort in response to the rising tide of substance-involved offenders revolving through the criminal justice system, developing mechanisms to utilize the treatment system to meet criminal justice goals. Discussions of how to link treatment and the judicial process and interrupt the relationship between drugs and property crimes were held by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the White House-established Special Action Office for Drug Prevention, and the National Institute on Mental Health's division of Narcotic Addiction and Drug Abuse—predecessor to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The result was a federal initiative, modeled after early experiments with diversion programs and two demonstration projects in New

York City and Washington, DC. The project was funded under the Drug Abuse office and Treatment Act of 1972 and christened TASC—"Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime."



In the mid 80s a resurgence of interest in TASC came through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which had taken the place of LEAA. Along the way, TASC was renamed, and now stands for **Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities**. The goal of TASC programs, then and now, is to provide a treatment intervention to stop the cycle of addiction, arrest, incarceration, release and addiction.

Because it is a methodology as well as a program model, TASC methods are applicable for moving offenders through a range of sentencing options from deferred prosecution or pretrial release through incarceration and probation/parole, as well as through residential and non-residential treatment programs and aftercare. TASC methodology is essential to developing the partnerships between the justice system and the treatment delivery system that characterize many successful offender management programs, including drug courts, Networks, and Break the Cycle programs, to name a few.

National TASC is a membership organization representing individuals and programs dedicated to professional delivery of treatment and case management ser-

(Continued on page 3)

## National TASC Comes to Virginia

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vices to substance abusing populations. The National office provides consultation and technical assistance to federal, state and local agencies and organizations seeking to link the justice system with treatment. Earlier this year, the Criminal Justice Agency's Director, Tracey Jenkins, was appointed to Board of Directors for National TASC. The other eight Board members are from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio.

In September, National TASC will hold its eleventh national conference on Drugs and Crime in Arlington, Virginia. This year's conference theme is: Building Safer Communities Through Partnerships to Restore Individuals and Families. In recognition of their Virginia hosts, this conference offers a special registration rate of \$245 for Virginia residents who register before August 1, 2004.

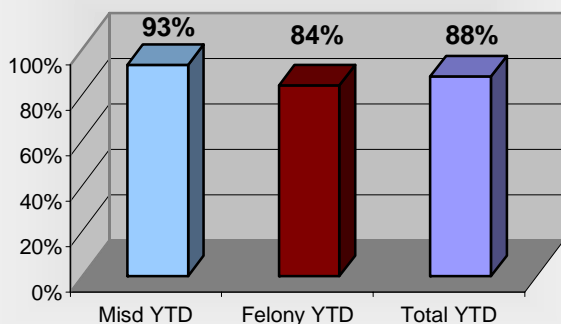
National TASC is looking to increase its partnerships in Virginia. Through the National TASC office, Virginia's

local criminal justice agencies can look forward to opportunities for resource materials, technical assistance, and inclusion in special projects in the coming years. The CJA and our local area will certainly benefit from the efforts of National TASC.

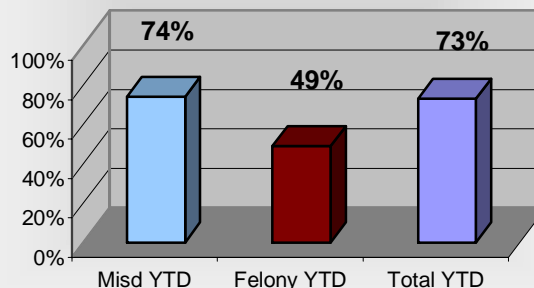
For more information on National TASC, the projects they are involved in, and the annual conference, visit the National TASC website at [www.nationaltasc.org](http://www.nationaltasc.org).

## Third Quarter Highlights

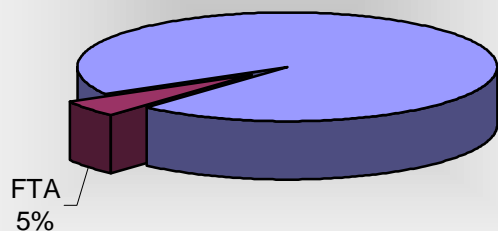
Successful Closer Rates Pretrial Services



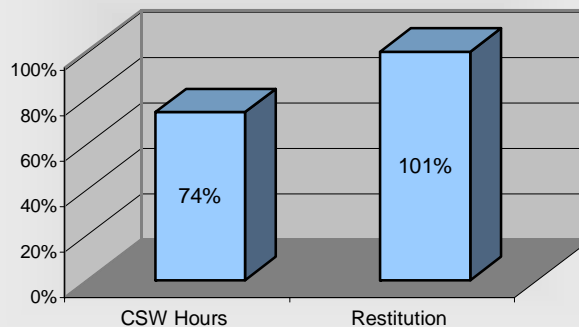
Successful Closer Rates Community Corrections



Total Failure To Appear Cases Pretrial Services



Percent of Yearly Goals at the end of the Third Quarter for Community Corrections



Clients placed under local community probation supervision performed over **60,600** hours of community service so far this year, equating to over **\$312,000** in free, unpaid labor, which directly benefits the Cities of Hampton and Newport News.

Year-to-date the CJA has referred:

- **211** clients to substance abuse education or counseling
- **126** clients to anger mgt
- **138** clients to batterers Intervention
- **1382** clients to community service work
- **45** clients for Mental health evals

So far this year Pretrial Services has conducted **4,112** investigations.

By the end of the third quarter **941** clients were placed under Pretrial Supervision and **3,051** clients were placed under Local Community Corrections Supervision.

The mission of the CJA is to promote public safety through the provision of community-based pretrial and post conviction programs, services and criminal justice planning to the Cities of Hampton and Newport News.

### Mission Statement:

Hampton-Newport News CJA  
136 Kings Street, VA  
Hampton, VA 23669

### Upcoming Events

**April 18-24, 2004:** Victim Rights Week

**April 21-23, 2004:** Virginia Drug Court Training Conference - Richmond

**April 26-28, 2004:** COJ: Community Partnerships & VCAN Conference; Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services – Virginia Beach

**June 3, 2004:** HNNCCJB Meeting

**June 16, 2004:** HNNCCJB – JJSC Meeting

**July 1, 2004: *Happy New Year!*** (Fiscal year that is!)

**Sept. 26-29, 2004:** National TASC Annual Conference on Drugs and Crime - Arlington

**Nov. 3-5, 2004:** Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting & Training Conference – Wintergreen

### Congratulations !

Chief Charles “Chuck” Jordan, recently appointed Chief of Police in Hampton.

### Outstanding CJA Staff

Director *Tracey Jenkins* was elected to the TASC, Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities Board of Directors. In addition to her role as Board member to TASC, Tracey is an active member in other local, national and international organizations related to local community probation such as VCCJA, ICCA, and NIC.

Senior Pretrial Investigator *Kenneth Rolon* is the **Founder** and Co-Chair of the new *Cultural Barriers Committee* for the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Assoc.



Data Management and Evaluation Analyst *Andy Warriner* (above) was recently named Co-Chair of the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association's Conference Committee. Andy has been with the Agency for almost two years.

**Editor:** Andy Warriner. Please contact Andy with any comments or updates at: 726-5431 or [awarriner@hampton.gov](mailto:awarriner@hampton.gov).